

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 10290 070803Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INT-05
GSA-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 /095 W
-----092510 071757Z /64

R 070741Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8552
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 10290

USEEC ALSO FOR AMEMBASSY

USMTN ALSO FOR USMISSION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, CG, BE, UK, JA
SUBJECT: ZAIRE REBELLION WILL CAUSE COBALT SHORTAGE IN
JAPAN

REF: (A) LONDON 8650, (B) LONDON 8642

1. JAPANESE COBALT CONSUMING INDUSTRIES, E.G., MANUFAC-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 10290 070803Z

TURERS OF MAGNETIC MATERIALS AND SPECIALTY STEELS, ARE
GREATLY CONCERNED THAT THE ZAIRE REBELLION WILL RESULT
IN A SHORTAGE OF COBALT SUPPLIES BEGINNING IN JULY.
ALTHOUGH JAPANESE PRODUCTION OF METALLIC COBALT INCREASED
TO 1,093 MT IN 1977 (FROM 48 MT IN 1975 AND 515 MT IN
1976), JAPAN IS STILL GREATLY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS,
PARTICULARLY OF ZAIRIAN COBALT, IMPORTED EITHER DIRECTLY

FROM ZAIRE, OR THROUGH BELGIUM. JAPANESE IMPORTS OF COBALT (INGOTS, POWDER, AND FLAKES) WERE 1,532 MT IN 1975, 3,834 MT IN 1976, AND 1,865 MT IN 1977. THE COMBINED TOTAL IMPORTS FROM ZAIRE AND BELGIUM ACCOUNTED FOR 90 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL IMPORTS IN 1975, 82 PERCENT IN 1976, AND 83 PERCENT IN 1977.

2. ACCORDING TO MITSUI AND CO., LTD., THE LARGEST IMPORTER, THE SHORTAGE OF COBALT WILL BECOME SERIOUS IN THE LATTER HALF OF THIS YEAR WITH THE TERMINATION OF SHIPMENTS FROM ZAIRE CONTRACTED BEFORE THE SHABA INCURSION, AND EXHAUSTION OF INVENTORIES, WHICH ARE ESTIMATED AT 1.5-2 MONTH CONSUMPTION AT MOST. ON JUNE 1 MITSUI AND MAJOR COBALT CONSUMERS MET TOGETHER TO CONSIDER CONTERMEASURES. MITSUI TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT THEY SEE NO SOLUTION WITHOUT COMPLETE TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES, AND EVEN THEN THEY EXPECT THAT IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS TO GET COBALT OPERATIONS BACK TO NORMAL IN THE KOLWEZI DISTRICT. MANSFIELD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COBALT, INDUSTRY, SUPPLIES, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO10290
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780238-0291
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780684/aaaacuhg.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93cacc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 8650, 78 LONDON 8642
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2446698
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRE REBELLION WILL CAUSE COBALT SHORTAGE IN JAPAN
TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, MOPS, CG, BE, UK, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93cacc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014